

Notice of meeting

date: 29 October 2008

ref: JE/CB/com dist/081003

*District of Easington
Council Offices
Seaside Lane
Easington
Peterlee
County Durham
SR8 3TN
(0191) 527 0501-*



District of easington.
council chambers

In accordance with Paragraph 2(1)(2) of Schedule 12 of the Local

Government Act 1972, I hereby summon you to attend a

Meeting of the District Council of Easington

which will be held in the

Council Chamber at the **Council Offices, Easington** on

Thursday 6 November 2008 at 10.00 am

Chief Executive

Agenda

- 1 **The Minutes of the Meeting of the District Council of Easington** held on 2 October 2008 are attached.
- 2 **The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the District Council of Easington** held on 30 September 2008 are attached.
- 3 **The Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Appeals Panel** held on 21 October 2008 are attached.
- 4 **Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) - Mobility Benefits for Blind People**

The Head of Democratic Services reports the receipt of correspondence from the RNIB in relation to a national campaign launched in August 2006 to ensure that blind residents are given access to essential mobility benefits to enable them to travel safely and live independently.

The RNIB considers that the concessionary travel scheme has opened up more options for blind and partially sighted people but that they still face significant difficulties when using public transport without support, thereby denying them independence and resulting in additional unaffordable costs.

The campaign seeks to rectify an anomaly in the current eligibility criteria which would allow blind people to access the higher rate of Disability Living Allowance (mobility component) and has asked Councils to give consideration to a motion in support of this.

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted on the request and the content of the model motion.

Recommendation

Members are requested to consider the following motion in support of the RNIB's campaign:-

“This Council notes that blind people experience significant barriers to independent mobility, are often isolated and find it difficult to access basic services without mobility assistance/support and face additional costs as a result, such as using taxis or private hire vehicles.

The Council also notes that blind people are not entitled to the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance. The loss of usable sight clearly causes significant independent mobility problems and incurs significant additional and unmet costs. Blind people in many parts of England are excluded from social care support because their needs are not considered 'critical' or 'substantial'.

This Council resolves to

- (a) ask the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions expressing these concerns;
- (b) ask the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to write to local MPs asking that they sign up to Early Day Motion 1982;
- (c) support the RNIB's campaign to secure the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance for blind people.”

5 Darzi Review of Health Services

The Head of Democratic Services reports the receipt of correspondence from Councillor Sir Jeremy Beecham of the Local Government Association regarding the Darzi review of health services. The correspondence states that a misleading campaign is underway which implies that GP practices would close and be replaced by anonymous polyclinics.

Councillor Sir Beecham has asked for the Council to consider adopting a resolution which would clarify the situation.

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted on the request and the content of the resolution.

Recommendation

Accordingly, Members are requested to give consideration to the following:-

“This Council notes that thanks to investment in the NHS there are 5000 more GPs and 4000 more practice nurses than in 1997, and welcomes the Government’s intention to accept the recommendations of the Darzi Review

- (a) to provide 152 additional GP health centres, one in each Primary Care Trust area, complementing and not replacing, existing GP provision, and providing a wide range of GP, diagnostic and other services open 12 hours a day all year;
- (b) ensuring that at least half of all GP practices offer extended opening hours in evenings and/or during weekends
- (c) to establish at least 50 additional GP practices in under-served areas.”

6 **Casual Vacancy – Deneside Ward of the District of Easington/Seaham Harbour North Ward of Seaham Town Council**

Report of the Head of Democratic Services attached.

7 **Tree Preservation Order at Dairy Farm, Littlethorpe**

Report of the Head of Planning and Building Control Services attached.

8 **Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 257 - Public Footpath Stopping Up Order
The District of Easington (Woodlands Avenue, Wheatley Hill) (No1) Public Path Stopping Up Order 2008**

As a measure to help resolve problems of youths congregating and serious anti-social behaviour, planning permission for the closure of the footpath adjacent to No 12 Aged Miners Homes, Woodlands Avenue, Wheatley Hill and change of use to private garden was granted by the District Council on 16 May 2008 to Durham Aged Mineworkers Homes Association.

The District Council is now requested to make an Order under Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 because it is satisfied that it is necessary to stop up the footpath to which this order relates to enable development to be carried out in accordance with planning permission granted.

A copy of the Order and Order map is attached which shows the footpath to be stopped up as part of this Order.

Accordingly, the District Council is hereby requested to make the District of Easington (Woodlands Avenue, Wheatley Hill) (No1) Public Path Stopping Up 2008 and to authorise the Council’s Governance and Risk Manager to undertake the necessary statutory order procedures.

9 **To Seal Documents (if any)**

10 **Any Additional Urgent Items of Business**

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985, Section 100B(4)(b), to consider any item the Chair considers to be urgent, following consultation with the Proper Officer.

To: **All Members of the District Council of Easington**

Councillors Mrs M Baird, B Bates, E Bell, S Bishop, Mrs G Bleasdale, B Burn, A Burnip, R Burnip, A Collinson, Mrs E M Connor, R Crute, R Davison, Mrs S Forster, Mrs J Freak, J Haggan, H High, A J Holmes, Mrs E Huntington, G Johnson, Mrs A E Laing, R Liddle, T Longstaff, D Maddison, Mrs J Maitland, Mrs J Maslin, Mrs S Mason, K McGonnell, D Milsom, D Myers, A Napier, Mrs A Naylor, M Nicholls, Mrs M Nugent, C Patching, G Patterson, G Pinkney, B Quinn, D Raine, M Routledge, F Shaw, Mrs B A Sloan, P Stradling, R Taylor, D J Taylor-Gooby, R J Todd, T Unsworth, C Walker, P G Ward, Mrs V M Williams and B Wilson